

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-05 SAM-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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R 171426Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6147

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG SY

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN REACTION TO SYRIAN CRITICISM OF SINAI II

REF: DAMASCUS 5388

1. IN STRONGLY WORDED EDITORIAL AUGUST 17 ENGLISH LANGUAGE EGYPTIAN GAZETTE RESPONDS TO SYRIAN CHARGE THAT SINAI II AGREEMENT CAUSED LEBANESE CONFLICT AND TO CHALLENGE THAT EGYPT ALLOW PALESTINIANS TO ATTACK ISRAEL FROM ITS TERRITORY (REFTEL). WHILE GAZETTE PUBLISHED MAINLY FOR FOREIGN AUDIENCE, EDITORIAL REPRESENTS EXTREME SENSITIVITY OF HIGH LEVEL EGYPTIANS TO ANY SUGGESTION THAT SINAI II HAS DAMAGED ARAB CAUSES.

2. EDITORIAL SAYS CAUSE OF LEBANESE CONFLICT WAS OVER SECTARIAN SYSTEM OF POWER SHARING AND RIDICULES IDEA THAT ANY OF PARTIES FIGHTING FOR OR AGAINST SINAI II. IN RESPONSE TO SYRIAN CHALLENGE, IT ASKED HOW IN PRACTICAL TERMS PALESTINIANS COULD USE EGYPTIAN TERRITORY IN VIEW OF FACT MUCH OF SINAI OCCUPIED BY ENEMY FORCES AND HOW OFTEN SYRIA ALLOWS PALESTINIANS TO USE ITS TERRITORY AND HOW EFFECTIVE ARE THEIR ATTACKS. THESE AND OTHER SYRIAN CHALLENGES SEEN ONLY AS EFFORT TO COVER UP ITS INTERVENTION WHICH HAS HELPED

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MARONITES CRUSH PALESTINIANS. TO BACK UP CHARGE OF "UNHOLY

ALLIANCE" WRITER CITES NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL OF AUGUST 15
WHICH REPORTEDLY REFERS TO INFORMAL ALLIANCE AMONG SYRIAN,
PRO-ISRAELI CHRISTIAN LEBANESE AND ISRAEL. WRITER SAYS
SYRIA COULD NEVER HAVE ENTERED LEBANON WITHOUT ISRAELI
APPROVAL AND ISRAELIS WOULD NEVER HAVE PERMITTED INVASION UNLESS
IT WAS CERTAIN THAT SYRIA WAS GOING TO CARRY OUT TEL AVIV'S
BIDDING. IT FOLLOWS, IN HIS VIEW, THAT SOME SORT OF SYRIAN/
ISRAELI DEAL MUST ALREADY HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED AS THE PRICE FOR
SYRIAN TREACHERY.
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